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# Secret Spy Inquiry May Mean 'Heads Will Roll,' Israelis Hear

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JERUSALEM, Nov. 25 — Israeli officials said today that an unidentified "senior Government figure" was conducting an intensive secret investigation of charges of an Israeli espionage operation in Washington and that it was likely that some "heads will roll" soon.

Because of the sensitivity of the affair, officials said they could not predict when a conclusive explanation of Israel's conduct would be released.

However, it is well known that Jonathan Jay Pollard, a 31-year-old employee of the United States Naval Intelligence Service who was arrested last Thursday on charges of selling secret codes to Israel, is due in Federal District Court in Washington Wednesday and there is a wish to get a clear-cut Israeli explanation on the record before then.

Speaking of the "intensive" investigation now under way, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir told Parliament's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee:

"These are not easy times, but I hope we will overcome them."

Members of Parliament are becoming increasingly upset with the time it is taking the Government to produce an answer.

Pinhas Goldstein, a member of the right-wing Likud in Parliament, said the Government reaction thus far had been "too little, too late." Yossie Sarid, a left-wing member, stated that the worst aspect of the affair was that it appeared Israel's political leadership seemed not to know what was going on in an area where its supervision should have been stringent.

The coalition Cabinet does not want to commit itself to any explanation before it is certain that it will answer all the outstanding questions, officials said.

Government spokesmen refused to say who was heading the internal inquiry or who was being questioned, although official sources make no secret that the primary focus is the intelligence community and particularly the

Mossad, the Israeli equivalent of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The daily newspaper Haaretz reported that several high and middle-level figures in intelligence were expected to lose their jobs, both to punish them and to persuade the Reagan Administration that the political leadership of Israel was not involved.

An official Foreign Ministry statement Sunday said that the political establishment in Israel had been taken by surprise by the events.

The Israeli newspapers today were full of questions that appeared to indicate how unusual this affair was.

To begin with, American officials have said Mr. Pollard began passing information to Israel in May 1984. At that time, the Likud was still in power and Mr. Shamir was Prime Minister. One question is whether Mr. Shamir knew something and did not pass it on to Shimon Peres when he took over the coalition Government in September 1984.

Next, could the Mossad have been involved on any level, particularly from the top, in an operation violating basic rules of Israeli intelligence?

For instance, use of an American Jew to spy on the United States Government would be highly unusual. The Israeli secret service has almost never turned to Jews to carry out espionage in their own countries because of the painful issue of dual loyalties this could raise.

The Israel radio quoted unidentified Israeli intelligence officials as saying that in the long run the most damaging effect would not be on Israel-United States relations, but on American Jews.

"Using an American Jew for spying is dangerous foolishness," the radio quoted a senior Israeli intelligence official as saying. "American Jewry has not yet overcome the exposure of the Rosenberg couple. Recruiting Jews for spying should always be avoided."

Not only was Mr. Pollard Jewish, but judging from the reports of his boast-

ing, he was an amateur, not the kind of professional usually recruited by a sophisticated agency.

"One of the rules practiced by the intelligence community is that the carrying out of intelligence operations in politically sensitive areas necessitates those involved to meet the most stringent criteria: something which certainly doesn't hold true in Pollard's case," the Haaretz political analyst Reuven Pedatzur wrote.

Moreover, why would the Mossad have violated an understanding between Israel and the United States not to spy in each other's countries to obtain information that Israel might have been able to acquire legally?

Then, given the amateur appearance of the operation, is it possible that a present or former Mossad agent was running an independent operation in Washington, without the knowledge of the current Mossad chief or the political leadership? This is one of the many rumors circulating here.